

in a cage inside a courtroom, she refused to speak Russian, wore a T-shirt that displayed the Ukrainian trident, and held up a sign that read "I was born Ukrainian, and I die Ukrainian."

President Poroshenko awarded her the title "Hero of Ukraine," and her fellow citizens elected her to Parliament. But, truly, she is a hero to all of us who seek to restore a Europe that is whole and free.

I presented the second Freedom Award to the Donetsk National University. Last year, pro-Russian separatists seized the city of Donetsk and declared a Soviet-style people's republic. Armed rebels took over the Donetsk's national university, the region's most prestigious college. They ousted the school's Ukrainian rector, ordered the Russification of the curriculum, and destroyed any semblance of academic freedom. Rather than submit, the rector and core faculty members left Donetsk and they transplanted the school roughly 500 miles to the west. Donetsk National University became Ukraine's first university in exile. It has been a struggle to survive, but this university has become a proud symbol of both academic freedom and Ukrainian independence.

The attack on Ukraine has not only galvanized Europe, it also focused the attention of Congress on European affairs like no other event perhaps since the end of the Cold War, certainly like no other event since I have been in the Senate.

On a bipartisan basis, Members of Congress admire and support Ukraine's stand for universal values and independence, and Congress has responded. In December, we passed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act authorizing the President to provide defensive military assistance to Ukraine and to tighten economic sanctions against Russia.

Through the European Reassurance Initiative, the administration has pledged \$1 billion to bolster U.S. military deployments, to increase our training exercises, and to step up our partnerships with allies, including the Baltic States, Poland, Ukraine, Moldavia, and Georgia as they strengthen their own defenses. I was pleased to learn last week that the administration is planning to preposition tanks and other heavy weaponry in the Baltic States and in Eastern Europe to support training with regional allies and to show resolve in the face of Russian threats.

These are all important steps forward, but they are not sufficient. Within the Transatlantic Alliance and NATO, the United States remains the indispensable Nation. If there is going to be a renaissance of the alliance in the face of the Russian threat, then the United States must lead it with our European allies.

The United States must mobilize the alliance, our European partners, and international financial institutions, such as the IMF, to provide generous economic support to Ukraine because

no amount of security assistance can offset an economic collapse in Kyiv.

We also must recognize that the challenge for Mr. Putin is not only geopolitical; it is ideological. He has mobilized a vast propaganda campaign against what he calls "decadent" Western values and Western-style democracy. The United States, along with our allies, must go on the offensive to champion our values and our democracy. Just as we did during the Cold War, we must develop a 21st-century United States Information Agency and a Radio Free Europe-style campaign to counter Russia in the information space, including in the competition of ideas and values.

While American leadership is essential, our European allies must also step up. NATO leaders made important spending pledges at the Wales Summit last September. Now we all need to make good on those commitments, including increasing defense budgets to respond to Russian threats.

As we confront a newly aggressive Russia, we should also take heart from the Transatlantic Alliance's remarkable track record of achievement, thanks in large part to American leadership. Over the last seven decades, we have risen to every major challenge—rebuilding Europe after World War II; maintaining a united front during the Cold War; liberating the captive nations of Eastern Europe and integrating them into a Europe whole and free; and today, standing united against the challenges of terrorism, Russian aggression, and a nuclear Iran.

The Russian threat to Eastern and Central Europe is very real. President Putin is an autocrat whose popularity is based largely on his determination to reassert Russia's domination over its neighbors. But we have the means to counter this threat.

To support Ukraine and other frontline states, we need vigorous U.S. leadership of the Transatlantic Alliance, we need a robust mobilization of the alliance's military and financial resources, and we need to engage Vladimir Putin aggressively in the competition of ideas and ideals.

Our friends in Ukraine are already in this fight. Our allies elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe fear that they could be next. For the West to rise to this new challenge, the United States once again must be the indispensable Nation, and I know that here in the Senate we support that effort.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:50 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:50 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 9:50 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

KENNETH J. KOPOCIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER SILVA SILVA, RESIGNED.

JANET GARVIN MCCABE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE REGINA MCCARTHY, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL H. SHIELDS

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. VICTOR J. BRADEN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. RICHARD P. BRECKENRIDGE

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 47:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. CHARLES D. MICHEL

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JANE E. BOOMER
SETH R. DEAM
JOSEPH F. DENE
ROBERT S. HALL
ROBERT S. HUME
JULIE J. R. HUYGEN
JOSEPH S. IMBURGIA
MATTHEW T. JARREAU
JOHN C. JOHNSON
RICHARD H. LADUE, JR.
LINELL A. LETENDRE
DEBRA A. LUKER
MATTHEW J. MULBARGER
MYNDA L. G. OHMAN
SHELLY W. SCHOOLS
SUZETTE D. SEUELL
SHANNON L. SHERWIN
MATTHEW D. VAN DALEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BRANDON R. ABEL
ALICIA D. ABRAMS
LUIS J. ADAMES
GEORGE E. ADAMS
ISAAC E. ADAMS
JOHN F. ADAMS, JR.
BRIAN S. ADCOCK
JOHN T. AGNEW
ROBERT A. AIKMAN II
DANIEL O. AKEREDOLU
ADAM T. AKERS
JAMES D. AKERS II
MICHAEL S. ALBERS
MELISSA M. ALBLINGER
JOHN E. ALDERMAN
JAMES D. ALDRICH
STEPHEN C. ALDRIDGE
DAVID S. ALEXANDER
GARRY J. ALEXANDER
KERRI V. ALEXANDER
PERRY D. ALEXANDER
DANIEL M. ALFORD
PERRY G. ALFRED
BILLY S. ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER B. ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER IAN ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER W. ALLEN
KYLE S. ALLEN
JEARL C. ALLMAN
LANCE P. ALLRED
BRADLEY D. ALTMAN
MARK A. AMENDT
MATTHEW B. AMIG
CRAIG A. ANDERS
KELLY S. ANDERSON
MATTHEW E. ANDERSON
RYAN J. ANDERSON
STEPHEN G. ANDERSON
TODD R. ANDREWS
CHRISTOPHER J. ANGLIN